



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,350	03/07/2001	Chun Hsiang Lai	JCLA6643	4896

7590 08/06/2002  
J. C. Patents, Inc.  
4 Venture  
Suite 250  
Irvine, CA 92618

EXAMINER

NADAV, ORI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2811

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

qjn

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/801,350	LAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ori nadav	2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
     If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
     \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 2811

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu (5,869,873)..

Yu teaches in figure 6 an electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection circuit, suitable for use on the I/O pad, the ESD protection circuit comprising: a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) circuit 3, which comprises a first connection terminal, a second connection terminal, and a third connection terminal, wherein the first connection terminal and the second connection terminal are respectively connected to the I/O pad 1 and a ground voltage Vss, so as to discharge the electrostatic charges; and an anti-latch-up circuit RC, which comprises a fourth connection terminal, a fifth connection terminal, and a sixth connection terminal, respectively coupled to a voltage source (the line connecting the pad and the internal circuit), the ground voltage Vss, and the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit (the connection between the RC elements and the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit is done via transistor 4), whereby an anti-latch-

Art Unit: 2811

up signal is sent from the sixth connection terminal, so that the SCR circuit is not unexpectedly activated, causing latch-up of the ESD protection circuit.

Although Yu does not state a voltage source, this feature is inherent in Yu's device as the line connecting the pad and the internal circuit is the voltage source. Note that the device would not function without a voltage source.

Regarding claim 3, Yu teaches in figure 5 an SCR circuit comprises: a P-type substrate 5; an N well 51, formed in the p-type substrate; a first P+ doped region 56, formed in the P-type substrate and coupled to the ground voltage Vss; a first N+ doped region 54, formed in the P-type substrate, adjacent to the first P+ doped region, and coupled to the ground voltage; a second N+ doped region 53, formed between the P-type substrate and the N well, adjacent to the first N+ doped region, and coupled to the sixth connection terminal of the anti-latch-up circuit; a second P+ doped region 52, formed in the N well, adjacent to the second N+ doped region, and coupled to the I/O pad 1; and a third N+ doped region 57, formed in the N well, adjacent to the second P+ doped region, and coupled to the voltage source (the line connecting the pad and the internal circuit).

Regarding claim 4, Yu teaches in figure 6 anti-latch-up circuit comprises: a capacitor C, having a first contact end and a second contact end, respectively coupled to the

Art Unit: 2811

second N+ doped region (via transistor 55) and the ground voltage Vss (via resistor R); and a resistor R, having a first end and a second end, respectively coupled to the voltage source (the line connecting the pad and the internal circuit) via capacitor C and the second N+ doped region (via transistor 55)..

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu in view of Ker et al. (5,754,380).

Yu teaches substantially the entire claimed structure, as applied to claim 1 above, except a first diode, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the I/O pad; and a second diode, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the I/O pad and a voltage source.

Ker et al. teach in figure 1 a first diode 70, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the I/O pad; and a second

Art Unit: 2811

diode 60, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the 1/O pad and a voltage source.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a first diode, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the ground voltage and the 1/O pad; and a second diode, having a first input end and a second input end, respectively connected to the 1/O pad and a voltage source in Yu's device in order to provide better protection for the device against ESD event.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant argues that Yu teaches an EPROM which activates the SCR circuit and does not prevent the SCR circuit from being unexpectedly activated, whereas the claimed invention recites an anti-latch up circuit which prevents the SCR circuit from being unexpectedly activated.

The EPROM transistor is not cited as being the anti-latch up circuit. The RC circuit is cited as being the anti-latch up circuit. Furthermore, the claimed limitation of an SCR circuit not being unexpectedly activated, is a broad limitation which does not define under what conditions an SCR circuit is considered to be unexpectedly activated. Yu does not state that SCR 3 of figure 6 is at any point unexpectedly

Art Unit: 2811

activated. Therefore, Yu teaches an ESD circuit, wherein the SCR circuit is not unexpectedly activated, as claimed. Note that the broad recitation of the claim does not require the sixth connection terminal to be directly connected to the third connection terminal of the SCR circuit

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

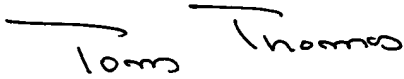
**Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center (TC) 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to TC 2800 via the TC**

Art Unit: 2811

**2800 Fax center located in Crystal Plaza 4, room 4-C23. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2811 Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722 and 308-7724. The Group 2811 Fax Center is to be used only for papers related to Group 2811 applications.**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or any earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to *Examiner Nadav* whose telephone number is **(703) 308-8138**. The Examiner is in the Office generally between the hours of 7 AM to 4 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas, can be reached at **(703) 308-2772**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **Technology Center Receptionists** whose telephone number is **308-0956**

  
TOM THOMAS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Ori Nadav

August 2, 2002